

[7th March,2001]

RAJYASABHA

Royalty for coal mining to Tamil Nadu

1161. SHRI CHOS. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of royalty paid by the Central Government to Tamil Nadu for coal mining during the last five years;

(b) whether the T.N. Government had made any request for enhancement of the royalty on coal mining;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Royalty rate on lignite is fixed by the Central Government but it is collected by the lignite producing companies operating in a State through their lignite sale bills and then passed on to the State Governments. Therefore, the Central Government are not required to pay any royalty on lignite to the Tamil Nadu Government. The royalty on lignite paid by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the last five years is as under:—

<i>(Rupees in lakhs)</i>	
Year	Amount
1995-1996	431.00
1996-1997	430.00
1997-1998	453.00
1998-1999	452.00
1999-2000	435.00

(b) to (d) A proposal for enhancement of the existing rate of royalty on lignite has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu and is under consideration of the Government.

News-item "Letter bomb blows up on mines bosses"

1162. DR. Y. RADHAK.RISHNAMURTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Letter bomb blows up on mine bosses" in the Telegraph, dated 8th February, 2001 regarding Bagdigi mine disaster; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on the content of the reported letter by the Assistant Manager of Bagdigi Colliery and six other forewarning about the disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the letter mentioned above was received in the Ministry of Coal on 13-2-2001. The Coal India Ltd., was requested to establish the authenticity of the letter. It has been reported that the said letter has not been received so far by Chairman, Coal India Limited.

Failure of rescue measures

1163. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rescue measures at Bagdigi coal mines could not succeed;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of rescue measures; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officers involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Rescue measures were initiated immediately after the accident and a multipronged strategy under the technical guidance of the DGMS officials was undertaken such as:—